

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/695,981
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated June 25, 2004
Response to the Office Action of March 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A digital camera for recording to a recording medium an image file including a main-image signal and a size-reduced image signal of a subject taken, comprising:

 a first transmitter for transmitting a plurality of the image files recorded in said recording medium to an external storage device;

 an eraser for erasing from said recording medium the plurality of image files transmitted by said first transmitter;

 a first receiver for receiving a plurality of the size-reduced image signals from said external storage device;

 a selector for selecting a desired size-reduced image signal from among the plurality of size-reduced image signals received by said first receiver; and

 a second receiver for receiving from said external storage device the image file including the desired size-reduced image signal selected by said selector.

Claim 2 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said first receiver includes a date inputter to input a desired date, a date information transmitter to transmit date information representative of the desired date to said external storage device, and a size-reduced

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image signal receiver to receive from said external storage device the plurality of size-reduced image signals generated on the desired date.

Claim 3 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said selector includes a display to display a plurality of size-reduced images based on the plurality of size-reduced image signals received by said first receiver, and a size-reduced image selector to select a desired size-reduced image from among the plurality of size-reduced images displayed by said display.

Claim 4 (Original): A digital camera for recording to a recording medium an image file including a main-image signal and a size-reduced image signal of a subject taken, comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting to an external storage device the image file recorded in said recording medium;

a storage for storing in a nonvolatile memory area the size-reduced image signal included in the image file transmitted by said transmitter; and

an eraser for erasing from said recording medium the image file transmitted by said transmitter.

Claim 5 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 4, further comprising an image file selector to select a desired image file from among a plurality of the image files recorded in said recording medium; wherein said transmitter transmits the desired image file, said storage

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storing in said memory area the size-reduced image signal included in the desired image file, and
said eraser erasing from said recording medium the desired image file.

Claim 6 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 4, further comprising:

a reproducer for reproducing a plurality of the size-reduced image signals stored in said
memory area;

a display for displaying a plurality of size-reduced images based on the plurality of
size-reduced image signals reproduced by said reproducer;

a size-reduced image selector for selecting a desired size-reduced image from among the
plurality of size-reduced images displayed by said display; and

a receiver for receiving from said external storage device the image file corresponding to
the size-reduced image selected by said size-reduced image selector.

Claim 7 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 4, further comprising an adder to
add print-job information to said image file prior to transmitting the image file.

Claim 8 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 4, wherein said nonvolatile
memory area is formed in said recording medium.

Claim 9 (Original): A digital camera for transmitting to an external storage device an
image signal of a subject taken, comprising:

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a detector for detecting a relationship in magnitude between a vacant capacity of said external storage device and a size of the image signal;

a first transmitter for transmitting an extension request for the vacant capacity to said external storage device based on a result of detection by said detector; and

a second transmitter for transmitting the image signal to said external storage device after the vacant space has been extended in response to the extension request.

Claim 10 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 9, further comprising:

a prompter for prompting the vacant capacity to extend when the vacant capacity is lower than the size; and

an instructor for instructing an extension of the vacant capacity; wherein

said first transmitter transmitting the extension request in response to an instruction by said instructor.

Claim 11 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 10, wherein the capacity of said external storage device is on sale on a predetermined-size basis and the instruction of said instructor is an instruction for purchasing a capacity of the predetermined size.

Claim 12 (New): A digital camera for recording to a recording medium an image file including a main-image and a size-reduced image which correspond to a subject taken, comprising:

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a first transmitter for transmitting to an external storage device the image file recorded in said recording medium;

an eraser for erasing from said recording medium the image file recorded in said recording medium;

a display for displaying the size-reduced image(s) remaining in said recording medium when a display operation is carried out;

a receiver for receiving, when a desired image is selected from among the size-reduced image(s) displayed by said display, the image file including the desired size-reduced image from said external storage device; and

a recorder for recording to said recording medium the image file received by said receiver.

Claim 13 (New): A digital camera according to claim 12, wherein said eraser includes a size-reduced image extractor for extracting the size-reduced image from the image file, a file eraser for erasing the image file after an extracting process of the size-reduced image extractor, and a size-reduced image recorder for recording to said recording medium the size-reduced image extracted by said size-reduced image extractor.

Claim 14 (New): A digital camera according to claim 12, further comprising an image file selector for selecting a desired image file from said recording medium, wherein said first transmitter transmits the desired image file, and said eraser erases from said recording medium the desired image file except for the size-reduced image included in the desired image file.

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Claim 15 (New): A digital camera according to claim 12, further comprising an adder for adding to the image file print-job information which requests a printing operation, prior to transmitting the image file.

Claim 16 (New): A digital camera according to claim 12, further comprising:
a detector for detecting a relationship in magnitude between a vacant capacity of said external storage device and a size of the image file to be transmitted; and
a second transmitter for transmitting an extension request for the vacant capacity to said external storage device based on a result of detection by said detector, wherein said first transmitter transmits the image file after the vacant capacity has been extended in response to the extension request

Claim 17 (New): A digital camera according to claim 12, further comprising:
a prompter for prompting the vacant capacity to extend when the vacant capacity is lower than the size; and
an instructor for instructing an extension of the vacant capacity, wherein said second transmitter transmits the extension request in response to an instruction by said instructor.

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Claim 18 (New): A digital camera according to claim 17, wherein the capacity of said external storage device is on sale on a predetermined-size basis, and the instruction of said instructor is an instruction for purchasing a capacity of the predetermined size.